

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:
Richard CHANG et al

Serial No. UNASSIGNED

Filed: HEREWITH

For: HAND HELD ELECTRIC HEAT
SEALER WITH SEALING
MECHANISM IN PRESS BAR

Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of Serial No.
09/208,256

Filed: December 9, 1998

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application
identified in caption as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the
following claims:

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40. A hand-held electric sealer comprising

- a) a housing,
- b) a press bar pivotally connected to said housing,
- c) a heating unit mounted in said press bar,
- d) a heat insulative base mounted in said housing,
- e) a source of current, and
- f) circuitry electrically connection said heating unit and said source of current.

41. The sealer of claim 40 wherein said heat insulative base includes a protrusive portion.

42. The sealer of claim 40 wherein said heating unit includes an electric heating wire mounted thereon.

43. The sealer of claim 40 further comprising a metal press plate for normally biasing said press bar in an open position.

44. The sealer of claim 43 wherein said metal press plate activates a switch when said press bar is pressed downwardly.

45. The sealer of claim 44 wherein said switch is mounted in said housing, and wherein a portion of said switch protrudes above said housing and engages said metal press plate.

46. The sealer of claim 45 wherein said portion of said switch that protrudes above said housing is biased upwardly by a spring.

47. A hand-held electric sealer comprising

- a) a housing,
- b) a press bar having a free end, said press bar being pivotally connected to said housing,
- c) a metal press plate remote from said free end of said press bar for normally biasing said press bar in an open position,
- d) a heating unit,
- e) a source of current, and
- f) circuitry electrically connecting said heating unit and said source of current, wherein said circuitry is normally in an open state,

wherein when said free end of said press bar is pivoted downwardly said metal press plate causes said circuit to close.

48. The sealer of claim 47 wherein said metal press plate is secured to said press bar.

49. A method of activating an electric heat sealer, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a hand-held electric heat sealer comprising a housing and a press bar pivotally connected thereto,
- b) pivoting a free end of said press bar downwardly,
- c) biasing downwardly a metal press plate connected to said press bar at a point remote from said free end, wherein said metal press plate causes a switch to close, thereby activating a circuit, and
- d) heating an electric heating wire.

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50. The method of claim 49 wherein a portion of said switch protrudes through an opening in said housing, said portion of said switch coming into contact with said metal press plate during step (c).

51. The method of claim 49 wherein said hand-held electric heat sealer further comprises a heating unit mounted in said housing, said heating unit including

- a) a heat insulative base having a protrusive portion,
- b) said electric heating wire mounted on said protrusive portion, and
- c) a heat resistant cover sheet covering at least a portion of said electric heating wire.

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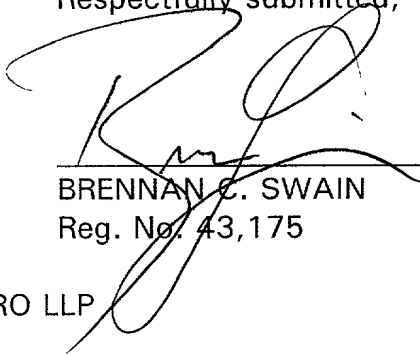
REMARKS

The claims have been preliminarily amended. An initial office action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

12/18/00

Date



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